(v) To examine the possibility and necessity of replacing the present institutional arrangements for the transfer and dissemination of technological information and make appropriate recommendation.

(vi) To examine the effectiveness of the existing institutional arrangement and the policies for meeting the long term and short term financial requirements of the small enterprises and make suitable recommendation.

(vii) To review the impact of various fiscal policies and tax concessions on small enterprises.

(viii) To examine the impact of various regulatory laws and procedures such as the labour laws, the Factories Act, the Industrial Disputes Act and the Environment Protective Act on the small firms.

(ix) To consider and make recommendations on such other matters as the Committee considers relevant.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

(e) The term of the Committee has been extended upto 31st October, 1996 by which time it is expected to submit its report.

[English]

Patent Right

3664. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "After neem, turmeric patent is grabbed in US" appearing in the "Times of India" dated June 29, 1996;

(b) whether the broad nature of the patents of turmeric may affect the plan of Indians to commercially utilise the various properties of this plant; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) A patent for a method of promoting healing of a wound by administering turmeric powder to a patient afflicted with the wound has reportedly been granted in USA to two non-resident Indians.

(b) and (c) The patent granted in U.S.A. is valid in that country and does not have any legal effect in India. Even then, CSIR and Government of India are taking action in this matter.

Agricultural Export

3665. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of agricultural exports against the total trade exports of the country during 1995-96 in comparison to 1980s;

(b) whether the agricultural exports have been hampered by controls and over-valued exchange rate during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any scope to boost the agricultural exports upto 30 percent of the total exports;

(e) if so, the details of the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed for the export of agricultural products;

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (f) The exports of agricultural and allied products (excluding tea, coffee, raw cotton and marine products) and their share in the country's total exports, since 1980-81 have been as under :-

Year	Exports of agricultural and allied products(Rs. Crores)	Country's total exports (Rs. Crores)	%share of exports of agricultural & allied products
1980-81	1035	6711	15.4
1985-86	1650	10895	15.1
1990-91	3189	32553	9.8
1995-96	12772.38	106464.86	12.0

(Source : Economic Survey 1995-96 & DGCI&S, Calcutta)